

S/N 10/656,070

PATENT

Remarks

This is in response to the final Office Action mailed on May 4, 2005, and the Advisory Actions mailed on June 20, 2005 and September 16, 2005. Claims 27-32, 36-45, 51, 54, and 59 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Subject matter from claims 51 and 54 is incorporated into claims 48 and 53, respectively. Claim 50 is amended to address informalities. Claims 33-35, 46-48, 50, 52, 53, and 55-58 remain pending, with claims 33, 46, 48, and 53 being independent. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

I. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 27, 29, 30, 32, 36-45, 48, 50, 52, 53, and 55-59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimek et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,941,237, in view of Moore et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,758,317. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and the correctness of the rejection is not conceded. Reconsideration is requested for at least the following reasons.

Applicants do not concede that there is any motivation to combine Shimek and Moore for at least the reasons previously stated. Applicants therefore respectfully do not concede that the rejection articulates a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

However, in the interest of moving this application into condition for allowance, claims 27, 29, 30, 32, 36-45, and 59 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 48 is amended to incorporate allowable subject matter from claim 51, and claim 53 is amended to incorporate allowable subject matter from claim 54. Claims 50, 52, and 55-58 all depend from one of claims 48 and 53. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 48, 50, 52, 53, and 55-58 are therefore respectfully requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 33-35, 46, 47 are noted as being allowed. Claims 51 and 54 are noted as containing allowable subject matter. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's assistance in identifying allowable subject matter. All claims are in condition for allowance.

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III. Conclusion

The remarks set forth above provide certain arguments in support of the patentability of the pending claims. There may be other reasons that the pending claims are patentably distinct over the cited references, and the right to raise any such other reasons or arguments in the future is expressly reserved.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests examination and a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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